GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
LABOUR
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:156
ANSWERED ON:02.08.2000
CONTRACT LABOUR
SUNIL KHAN

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether contract labour is being engaged in national coal and steel mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to remove contract system in these mines?

Answer

MINISTER OF LABOUR (DR. SATYANARAYAN JATIYA)

(a) to (c): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 156 FOR 02.08.2000 REGARDING CONTRACT LABOUR

The Contract Labour (Regulation and Abolition) Act, 1970 has been enacted to regulate the employment of contract labour in certain establishments and to provide for its abolition in certain circumstances and for matters connected therewith. The Act came into force with effect from 10.2.1971. The central objective of the Act is to abolish contract labour in certain jobs/processes and to regulated the employment of contract labour in other jobs/processes where it cannot be abolished. In other words the Act does not envisage total abolition of contract labour system. It permits continuance of contract labour system but seeks to regulate it in jobs/processes/operations which are casual and intermittent in nature.

2. The Central Government is aware of the reported prevalence of contract labour in coal mines and mines owned by steel industry. As appropriate government for mining industry, engagement of contract labour have been prohibited in coal mines all over the country in the following operations:-

(i) Raising or raising - cum-selling of coal;

(ii) Coal loading and unloading;

(iii) Overburden removal earth cutting;

(iv) Soft coke manufacturing.

(v) Driving of stone drifts and miscellaneous stone cutting underground.

However, the prohibition shall not apply to the following categories:-

(a) Quarries in the North-east coal field which can only be worked for a few month every year due to heavy rainfall in the area;

(b) Quarries located by the side of the river in pench valley and similar other patch deposits which can only a worked when the level of river has gone down and during non-rainy season;

(c) Loading of coal when there is mechanical failure, failure of power irregular supply of wagon by the railways;and

(d) Cutting of stone drifts/faults which cannot be detected in advance and are of short duration, say upto six months.

3. The engagement of contract labour in coal washeries in the country have been prohibited in the following operations:

(i) Loading of raw coal;

(ii) Charging of magnetite; and

(iii) Plant cleaning including removal of magnetite, waste, much clearing, magnetite removal

(iv) Transport of Middling and

(v) Removal of Slurry.

4. The Central Government have also prohibited employment of contract labour in iron ore mines in the country in the following operations:

(i) Over burden removal

(ii) Drilling and Blasting.

(iii) Float Ore Operations

(iv) Muck cleaning operations in crushing plant, screening plants and / or conveyor belts; and

(v) Wagon levelling operations.

5. In view of the objective of the Act, while contract labour cannot be employed in coal and steel mines in the processes-operations prohibited by the notifications specified above, it is permissible for the mining establishments to continue the contract labour system in other processes/operations where it has not been prohibited. Wherever instance of violations of the Act/Rules/notifications come to the notice of the Central Government, as a result of inspections carried out by the inspecting authorities prescribed under the Act, prosecution cases are filed against the employers of such establishments.